

A Ruined Girdle Jer 13:1-11

Several years ago, I was given an expensive wool coat as a Christmas present. It was beautiful coat. To be honest with you

- I was very proud of it. But there is nothing like a baby to desecrate whatever pride a grown adult parent has. One night after church, the infant Grayson who was a ticking time bomb at that point in his life, (I liked to shake him up and give him to people I didn't like) proceeded to erupt and spew what is affectionately known as spit up. This moment would have been quickly forgotten and never remembered

- again, but that stream of milky projectile landed not on the back or inside but down the front lapel of my 300 dollar coat. I can still see this moment today. The coat has since been to the dry cleaners several times and yet a faint outline of chalky white stream can still be seen. I tell you that story to remind you of Prov 18:10 Pride goeth before... clored was to be a garment of adoration to the Lord, but Jeremiah is

illustrating how that this beautiful garment was ruined beyond repair. Let us follow the story gleanng lessons that will salvage our lives as a testimony of glory to God in the end of our lives.

I. The Reach toward a Girdle not yet Ruined

A. This girdle: worn by men & women, usually leather worn under clothes on skin, but linen, more decorative worn outwardly, very decoratively. God paints the picture of an Israel that is located close to heart to bring ^{glory}

B. Commandments Pronounced vs 11 - God is saying I have brought them close to me. He did this by giving them a law. In vs 10 God indicates that He had given them His clear word! God had delivered them but deliverance has demands God had made covenant w/ them, but covenants have commands. No other Gods! Not to cause to come in fear but command their respect to comes them to cleanse ^{to Him}

C. Commissioned Prophets - God caused his people to come to Him by sending prophet God always had a man a prophet to say 'thus saith the Lord.' A man who would 'root out and pull down and destroy, and throw down and build and plant. A voice crying out the way of God. God expresses his love for his people in sending pastors & prophets. One of my favorite messages ^{Samuel} ^{Nathan} ^{God} ^{P. of Intro} ^{P. of Injunction} ^{P. of Test} ^{Tom Hayes} ^{Prophet}

D. Covenant Promises - The very land on which they stood should cause them to come unto a covenant keeping God. He has made them a great nation and blessed them beyond compare.

Time & Time again God has delivered and blessed. He has proved that He is slow to anger and great in Mercy! This people are to be an adornment to God like a beautiful linen girdle, to beautify and glorify

M. Henry. "It was usual with the prophets to teach by signs, that a stupid
unthinking people might be brought to consider, and believe, and be
affected with what was thus set before them."

Psalms 119:9-11 Wherein shall a young man cleanse his way? by
taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I
sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word
have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God

① Fenced in Dog. Not to deprive him of
neighborhood. But to Protect

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✓ Psalms 119:9-11 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

*some things of God, and in some of them
belong at the end of the world*

II. The Reasons for the Girdle Ruined

A. Prophets often demonstrated their message usually with signs. I like what M. Henry said. Not much of a sign in girdle alone, but "put it not in water" There is something to note. There is the message! What came in a dirty girdle?

B. A Deaf Ear to the Word - Notice vs 10a

They would not listen to the revealed word of God whether by pronouncement or prophet. They outright rejected God's word. Not so at the beginning. The girdle wasn't dirty when Jeremiah first put it on but little by little. How is the filth of sin cleansed? Ps 119:9-11 I know Israel is not America, Israel not the church, but my what a parallel! Casting aside God's word, Soiled. ^{Young people} Listen

C. A Departing Way in their Walk - vs 10b

when a man, a people, a nation turn a deaf ear to God's word, then they begin to listen to their desperately wicked heart. Travis said it best "some say just follow your heart" why would you want to follow that crazy thing? They departed into a path of fulfilling their own lusts. When a linen girdle was not washed it became stiff, it would not conform to the shape, but go its own way. Stiff

D. A Disgraceful Bow in their Worship - vs 10c

This leads to idolatry. What a disgrace! Jesus said in Matt 23:37. Here we find Israel breaking the first and foremost command; committing high treason against the God that redeemed them! If worship of God is sweet savior this must be a foul stench! The root vs 9 Pride! Pride cause said he defear, stiff by
... in Disgraceful bow. And in And in And

III The Results of a Garble that has been Ruined

A. Psalm 135:15 will always be true. What is the end result of this rebellious people?

B. Relocation from God vs 4 - There is exile the children of Israel, were plucked up from their land of milk & honey and placed in a strange and foreign land. They were placed under task masters ruled by wicked men. Heb 13:6 Is. 59:1-2. I know the Lord will not utterly forsake his own; He shows this ^{vs 6} knew exactly where to find them, Ah but ^{Psalm} separated from God

C. Rejection by God vs 7 + 10 - marred, profitable for nothing, good for nothing. This garment of beauty that was to adorn the heart of God, was utterly filthy and useless. Is 3:54. They were to be an example of God's love and blessing to all the nations and now their usefulness is gone. I know God is a God of restoration and forgiveness, but through rebellion ^{"adultery"} there can be scars that ^{never go away}

D. Reproach toward God vs 11 - They became a complete opposite to what God had intended. They to be a people unto God, a name or renown or reputation for his praise for his glory but instead of a renown there was a reproach, instead of a praise, they became a pollution, instead of a glory they were grotesque. They had a chance to be used of God but that usefulness is gone.

IV Closing - Don't get me wrong, he is a God that is Merciful he restores; but learn a lesson from the Ruined dirty Garble: Stay close to God, Stay clean before God, Stay centered on God (you were designed to be a ^{Praise of glory})

Proverbs 13:15 ...the way of transgressors is hard.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Isaiah 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Isaiah 3:24 And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty.